



March 12, 2004

Man sentenced for two December bank robberies

A federal judge today sentenced **Vaughn Watrous**, 27, whose address is unknown, to 76 months in federal prison for December bank robberies in Warwick and in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Warwick police arrested Watrous on December 27, about 90 minutes after he robbed a Citizens Bank branch on Strawberry Field Road. Watrous subsequently pleaded guilty to that robbery and to one he had committed on December 23 at a Citizens branch in Plymouth.

At a hearing in October at which Watrous pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker said that, at about 2:45 PM on December 27, Watrous entered the Citizens Bank on Strawberry Field Road and handed a teller a note demanding money. He fled with \$2,103. A witness saw the robber leave the area in a taxi cab. Warwick Police tracked down the cab, determined that Watrous had paid the driver with some of the robbery money, and traced Watrous to the area on West Shore Road where the cab had taken him.

At about 4:20 PM, police officers saw Watrous and another man leave a shopping center on West Shore Road in another cab. They stopped the cab and arrested Watrous. They also recovered a bag containing \$1,900 of the robbery proceeds. Watrous had on him a Utah identification card.

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Watrous admitted robbing the Plymouth Citizens branch in a similar manner, also taking a taxi to

and from the bank and handing a teller a note demanding money. He obtained \$3,521 in that robbery.

Warwick Police, Plymouth Police and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Vilker prosecuted it.

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